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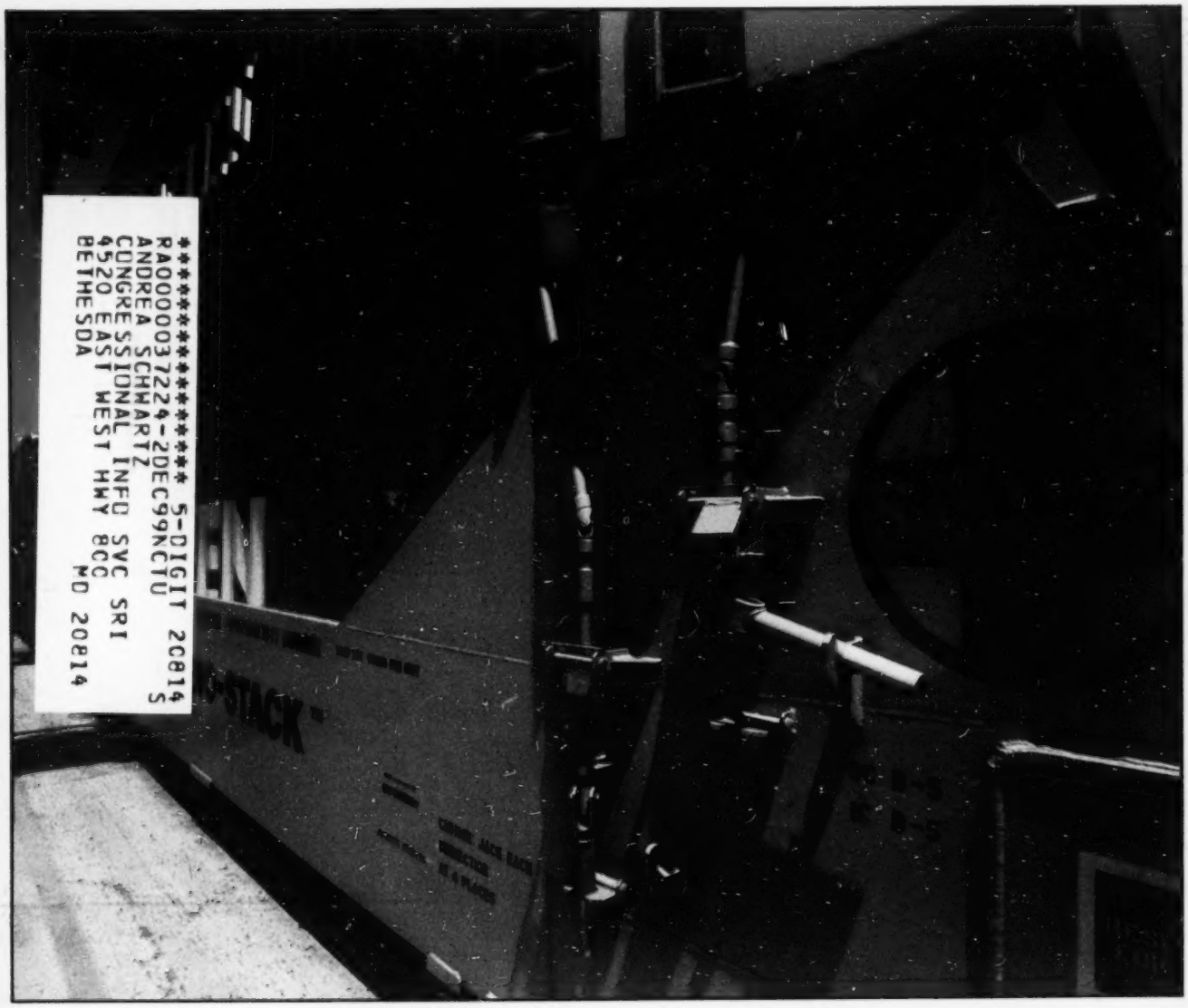
September 1986

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways



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The payoff in new equipment

M/W cost-cutters

Portland: A new jewel in light rail's crown

September 1986

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Carbuilders still in the business are finding there's still a market for such specialized, big-return equipment as double-stacks and lightweight coal cars.

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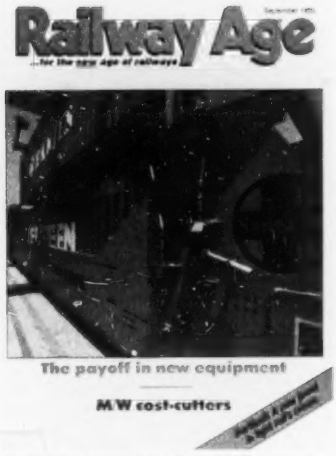

Cover photo by Bruce Harmon of Gunderson, Inc.

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Market Outlook

Facilities

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: Union Switch & Signal Division of American Standard is the apparent low bidder for upgrading signaling on MBTA's Attleboro-to-Hyannis commuter railroad, 81 miles. Boston-based Massachusetts Electric will be electrical contractor for the project, which calls for design and installation of wayside signaling equipment and enhancing of 70 grade-crossing protection systems.

Metra: The commuter rail arm of Chicago's Regional Transportation Authority awarded an $18.4-million contract to Klein Construction Co., Westmont, Ill., for new car and locomotive shops and a new material storehouse at 14th Street yard south of Chicago Union Station. Work will be completed in mid-1988 as part of a capital program eventually totaling $200 million and including four other downtown yards.

Metro-North Commuter Railroad: Placed a $2.7-million order with the Farinon Division of Harris Corp. for the supply and installation of an optical fiber communications transmission network along the right-of-way of the Harlem, Hudson and New Haven lines. It will provide telephone communications facilities, centralized traffic control, dispatch, supervisory control/data acquisition for traction power, public address, and miscellaneous other data communications circuits. The project is to be completed in July 1987.

- Metro-North begins work this month on the $16-million rehabilitation of four drawbridges—the Cob, Walk, Saga, and Devon—which span the Mianus, Norfolk, Saugatuck, and Housatonic rivers on the New Haven line. The construction contract was awarded to Arnold M. Diamond Inc. of Great Neck, N.Y.

Southern Pacific Transportation Co.: Awarded a contract to In-Terminal Services Co. to handle the loading and unloading of containers at the new $50-million Los Angeles-Long Beach Intermodal Container Transfer Facility scheduled to open in November. A subsidiary of Mi-Jack Corp., In-Terminal Services operates intermodal facilities at Bakersfield, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Ft. Worth, Fresno, Houston, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, and Savannah.

Revenue freight carloadings

Commodity	August 9 week	August 2 week	July 26 week	July 19 week
Grain	25,186	24,246	26,775	25,518
Other farm products	3,121	2,710	2,862	3,457
Metallic ores	14,810	15,668	17,680	15,550
Coal	112,870	112,846	112,163	102,096
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	14,429	15,206	14,173	15,048
Nonmetallic minerals	8,810	7,295	8,178	9,063
Grain mill products	10,478	10,425	10,274	10,231
Food and kindred products	10,824	11,203	10,645	10,883
Primary forest products	9,839	10,147	10,242	10,279
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,170	8,363	8,043	7,522
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,663	12,595	12,147	12,042
Chemicals and allied products	21,975	22,962	22,411	23,175
Petroleum products	5,208	4,960	4,897	4,910
Stone, clay and glass products	10,382	10,500	10,314	10,363
Coke	3,367	3,281	3,745	4,366
Metals and products	7,106	9,074	8,809	8,607
Motor vehicles and equipment	14,874	15,579	17,536	17,852
Waste and scrap materials	7,449	7,281	7,895	7,622
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	3,238	3,196	2,991	3,094
All other carloads	68,437	70,132	68,549	64,647
LCL traffic	87	109	101	104
Total Cars Loaded	**372,323**	**377,778**	**380,430**	**366,429**
% change from previous year	(1.7)	(1.2)	(1.3)	(0.9)
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)	17.1	17.2	17.3	16.7
% change from previous year	(1.1)	(0.9)	(0.7)	(1.3)

Total:	1986	1985	% change
32 weeks	537.6	542.3	(0.9)

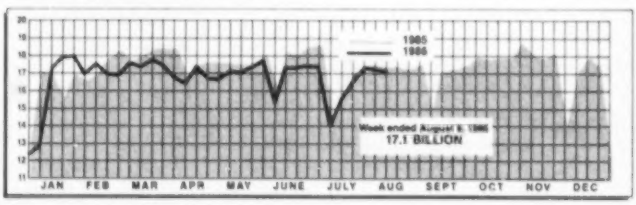
Piggyback loadings

	August 2 week	July 26 week	July 19 week	July 12 week
Trailers/containers	99,664	96,308	93,863	94,005

Cumulative total, 31 weeks		% change from 1985
Trailers/containers	2,895,012	9.8

Rail freight traffic trends

Billion ton-miles (Estimated)



Source: Association of American Railroads

Freight cars

	DELIVERED July 1986	DELIVERED 7 months 1986	DELIVERED 7 months 1985	ORDERED July 1986	ORDERED 7 months 1986	ORDERED 7 months 1985	ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED Aug. 1, 1986	Average Backlog 1986	Average Backlog 1985
Built new by carbuilders	1,247	5,241	6,612	797	7,264	5,932	3,782	3,610	4,100
Built new in RR shops	0	0	406	0	0	0	0	0	40
Built new—total	**1,247**	**5,241**	**7,018**	**797**	**7,264**	**5,932**	**3,782**	**3,610**	**4,140**
Rebuilt	0	50	0	0	75	0	25	14	0
TOTAL	**1,247**	**5,291**	**7,018**	**797**	**7,339**	**5,932**	**3,807**	**3,624**	**4,140**
Locomotives (new and rebuilt)	25	224	250	N/A	N/A	N/A	127	170	264

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute